

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You long to sustain us in our most difficult times. You desire to renew us in moments of rest.

Grant to the Members of the House of Representatives gifted moments throughout this week when Your presence is felt and Your companionship is realized in their work.

You can offer both healing and strengthening power to Your people when they seem caught by conflict and anxiety-producing situations.

Free all of them, Lord, interiorly that they may be their very best and Your chosen instruments to guide and even restrain the energies of this land of the free.

In You we move, act and have our very being, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MICHAUD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

BRENDA NICHOL

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Brenda Nichol has taught for the Armstrong-Indiana Intermediate Unit in western Pennsylvania for 8 years now. But on April 4, Brenda was notified that the small cross necklace she was wearing around her neck would have to be concealed by clothing or removed when she was in school. School officials claim that wearing the necklace in school violates the unit's policy as well as Pennsylvania school code regulations that prohibit school employees from wearing religious clothing or symbols in school. When asked to remove the necklace, Brenda refused. On April 8 she was suspended. On April 16 she was notified that the suspension would be for a year without pay.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. School personnel, just like students, do not check their constitutional liberties at the schoolhouse door. Brenda is a dedicated teacher who has a constitutional right to wear her little cross pendant around her neck at school. I hope the court will overturn the intermediate unit's harsh punishment for their ridiculous decision.

CYPRUS

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago, this House for the first time in 6 years spoke unanimously and decisively on the current situation involving Cyprus. On March 27, this body voted 422-0 to express our disappointment that a United Nations-backed settlement plan would not be presented to the people of Cyprus for their consideration. The resolution, introduced by this Member, also called for the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to quickly return to the negotiating table to find a fair and lasting settlement acceptable to all.

Since passage of that resolution, two extraordinary events have taken place on that divided island. The first took place over Easter holiday when Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Rauf Denktash, announced a freedom of movement policy whereby the border separating the two sides would be open for the free passage of the island's population. In another welcome move shortly thereafter, the Cyprus Government announced that it was initiating 19 confidence-building measures. Some of those included lifting of trade restrictions between the north and the south and the de-mining of the Greek Cypriot side of the buffer zone.

Mr. Speaker, whatever the impact the actions of this House had on events which have taken place on Cyprus, a new and positive attitude has taken hold on that island. This Member would like to commend Mr. Denktash for taking the bold and most welcome actions he initiated. In addition, this Member wishes to offer a special note of congratulations to President Papadopoulos for the comprehensive and impressive measures his government has put forward and has begun to implement.

Others include the hiring of Turkish Cypriot professionals in the Cyprus Government; restoration of direct telecommunications between the Greek Cypriot side and the north as well as with Turkey; permitting Turkish Cypriot athletes to participate as members of national sporting teams of the Republic of Cyprus; improved health care opportunities for Turkish Cypriots; and an accounting of missing personnel, just to name a few.

Of further interest, Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan traveled to north Cyprus last weekend. It was this Member's hope that the visit would help pave the way for the eventual resumption of settlement negotiations between

the two Cypriot sides. In the meantime, however, it was also this Member's hope that Turkey could be helpful in building confidence on the island by announcing several new initiatives as well. These could include the demining of the Turkish side to the buffer zone; placing the town of Famagusta under U.N. control for its reconstruction and return of its original inhabitants; addressing the issue of the enclaved people living in northern Cyprus, and to restart the missing persons' investigative committee.

Mr. Speaker, while open borders, telecommunications and demining will not ultimately settle the division of the island, these measures, hopefully, will lead to more trust and a willingness to quickly resume the negotiations, and find a settlement for this division, which is the strong desire of this House.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF THE
HONORABLE JOHN ROUSSELOT

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to inform our colleagues of the sad news that we received yesterday of the passing of our former colleague, Congressman John Rousselot. John Rousselot was one of the most dynamic and hardworking Members of this institution. He loved the People's House. He was an individual who in many ways was proposing ideas far ahead of his time. I was talking to our staff director of the Committee on Rules, Billy Pitts, who reminded me that he helped John Rousselot decades ago author the first balanced budget proposals. We all now know that both sides of the aisle talk about fiscal responsibility as we pursue our goal of trying to rein in wasteful Federal spending. No one did that with greater enthusiasm and passion than John Rousselot. He served with distinction on both the Banking Committee and the Ways and Means Committee, and he often would come forward with many creative proposals.

I have the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of now representing much of the area that Mr. Rousselot represented, and he is remembered very fondly by his constituents. No one was more tireless in their work in behalf of the concerns of the individuals whom he represented. I know the thoughts and prayers of all of my colleagues go to the family members of John Rousselot. I want to say that I personally will miss his advice and counsel greatly.

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW J.
RYAN, FORMER SPEAKER OF
PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE

(Mr. ENGLISH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGLISH. Today, Mr. Speaker, the House has the melancholy responsibility to take up a resolution memorializing one of the great leaders of the

Pennsylvania State legislature who passed recently. I am referring to former State Speaker of the House Matthew Ryan whose 41-year extraordinary career, including repeated service as Speaker of the House beginning in 1981, is an extraordinary testament to how so much of our legislative talent and our best legal minds are still concentrated in our State legislatures.

I worked for the State House. I knew Speaker Ryan. I knew what an extraordinary individual he was and how, at a time when affiliation with parties is something that has lost public favor, he was one of the finest products of the Delaware County Republican organization, a great friend, an individual who absolutely dominated the State House by the force of his mind and the force of his personality and led it in very positive directions, a man who was far more bipartisan than the reputation of that institution but always a strong Republican and always a strong advocate of creating jobs and of welfare reform. We will miss him dearly. I hope his memory and his example will long be with us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CONVEYANCE OF DECOMMISSIONED COAST GUARD CUTTER

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 517) to direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to convey the Coast Guard Cutter *Bramble*, upon its scheduled decommissioning, to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History located in Port Huron, Michigan, for use for education and historical display, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 517

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF DECOMMISSIONED COAST GUARD CUTTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a vessel described in subsection (b) to the person designated in subsection (b) with respect to the vessel (in this section referred to as the “recipient”), without consideration, if the person complies with the conditions under subsection (c).

(b) VESSELS DESCRIBED.—The vessels referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The Coast Guard Cutter BRAMBLE, to be conveyed to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History (a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Michigan), located in Port Huron, Michigan.

(2) The Coast Guard Cutter PLANETREE, to be conveyed to Jewish Life (a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of California), located in Sherman Oaks, California.

(c) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of any conveyance of a vessel under subsection (a), the Commandant shall require the recipient to—

(1) agree—

(A) to use the vessel for purposes of education and historical display;

(B) not to use the vessel for commercial transportation purposes;

(C) to make the vessel available to the United States Government if needed for use by the Commandant in time of war or a national emergency; and

(D) to hold the Government harmless for any claims arising from exposure to hazardous materials, including asbestos and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), after conveyance of the vessel, except for claims arising from use of the vessel by the Government under subparagraph (C);

(2) have funds available that will be committed to operate and maintain the vessel conveyed in good working condition—

(A) in the form of cash, liquid assets, or a written loan commitment; and

(B) in an amount of at least \$700,000; and

(3) agree to any other conditions the Commandant considers appropriate.

(d) MAINTENANCE AND DELIVERY OF VESSEL.—Prior to conveyance of a vessel under this section, the Commandant shall, to the extent practical, and subject to other Coast Guard mission requirements, make every effort to maintain the integrity of the vessel and its equipment until the time of delivery. The Commandant shall deliver a vessel conveyed under this section at the place where the vessel is located, in its present condition, and without cost to the Government. The conveyance of a vessel under this section shall not be considered a distribution in commerce for purposes of section 6(e) of Public Law 94-469 (15 U.S.C. 2605(e)).

(e) OTHER EXCESS EQUIPMENT.—The Commandant may convey to the recipient of a vessel under this section any excess equipment or parts from other decommissioned Coast Guard vessels for use to enhance the vessel's operability and function as an historical display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 517 conveys the Coast Guard Cutter *Bramble* to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History located in Port Huron, Michigan, for use for education and historical display. The amendment we are considering also conveys the Coast Guard Cutter *Planetree* to Jewish Life, a nonprofit corporation that promotes the understanding of Jewish culture and history. The *Bramble* is completing a nearly 60-year-long career, performing the same tasks of buoy tending, ice breaking, search and rescue and law enforcement for which she was commissioned in 1944.

One of 39 original *Iris* Class 180-foot seagoing buoy tenders built in Duluth, Minnesota, the *Bramble* has served admirably all over the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto

Rico. The Cutter *Bramble* has served on the Great Lakes since 1962 and has been homeported in Port Huron since 1975. With new technology evolving, the door has opened for a new class of buoy tenders to replace the 180-foot buoy tenders. The 225-foot Coast Guard Cutter *Hollyhock* will replace the *Bramble*, which will be decommissioned on May 22, 2003. The Cutter *Hollyhock* will be homeported in Port Huron.

Although the *Bramble* has reached the end of her service life to the Coast Guard, I can think of no better mission that she can continue to perform than public service. Serving as an educational and historical platform, she will remain a vital link to Port Huron's rich maritime heritage.

The Cutter *Planetree*, a 180-foot seagoing buoy tender commissioned in 1943, also has a long history of excellent service to the Coast Guard and to this Nation. She served in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. In addition to operating from ports in Guam, the Great Lakes and throughout the Pacific Northwest, the *Planetree* made her Alaska debut in 1974 when she was transferred to Juneau. Decommissioned in 1999 in her homeport of Ketchikan, the *Planetree* currently is berthed in the San Francisco area where she was retired to a naval vessel graveyard. The *Planetree* was replaced by the new 175-foot buoy tender *Anthony Petit*. This legislation will make it possible for *Planetree* to resume her public service mission by serving as a symbolic ship honoring the original 66 exodus ships, their crew members, and the 77,000 Holocaust survivors those vessels carried to Israel.

This legislation dealing with the *Bramble* was introduced by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and, as it is being considered today, also includes the *Planetree* provision requested by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN). This bill allows the public to continue to receive benefits from these vessels after their services are no longer required by the Coast Guard.

I urge all Members to vote for this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 517, a bill to authorize the conveyance of two Coast Guard cutters to nonprofit organizations so they can use them for education and historic displays.

The 180-foot buoy tender *Bramble* was commissioned in 1944 and served our Nation until its decommissioning on May 22, 2002. The *Bramble* has sailed the waters from Alaska and Hawaii to Puerto Rico. Since 1962, she has served on the Great Lakes and has been homeported in Port Huron, Michigan, since 1975.

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H.R. 517 will authorize the conveyance of *Bramble* to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History where she